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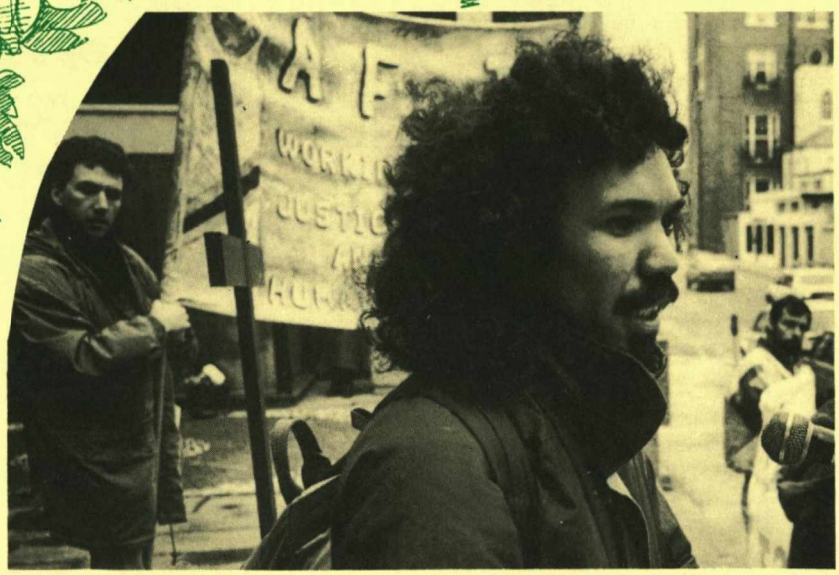

EAST TIMOR SOLIDARITY GROUP LAUNCHED AT GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY

In our last edition of 'Peacemaker', we reported on the situation in the small island of East Timor, which has been occupied since 1975 by Indonesia. An estimated 200,000 to 300,000 people have died since that time as a result of state induced famine and mass killings by Indonesian forces. This is approximately a quarter of the population of this small South Pacific Island.

We are glad to report that since then a solidarity group has been launched to focus attention on and raise awareness about East Timor. It was launched at AFrI's annual Good Friday 'Stations of the Cross'. During this ceremony, the cross was carried in procession from the British, to the United States, to the Australian embassies, to signify the deaths of so many people as a result of money and weapons supplied to Indonesia by these Western governments.

The main address was given by Estevao Cabral, who is himself a refugee from East Timor, forced to live in exile from his own country because of the policies of the invading power. He reminded us that the Dili massacre of November 1991, demonstrated that there is another 'Killing Field' going on in South East Asia. John May of the Irish School of Ecumenics also spoke.

The East Timor Ireland Solidarity Campaign has an office in Ballyfermot and has already had some significant achievements, including having the issue raised in the Senate, resulting in a promise by Foreign Affairs Minister, David Andrews, to make East Timor a priority foreign policy issue.

For further information on East Timor contact : Tom Hyland at Tel/Fax: 6233148.

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